

**REMARKS**

The subject Application is under Final; a Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith, together with a request for time extension , and the appropriate fees, by Credit Card. Claims 1 through 18 are present in the case.

The present invention is directed to a moulded plastic container for a predetermined plurality of CD discs, the container comprising three identical container segments, each incorporating hinge elements that enable detachable connection of the segments as a closed container, and ready detachment in side-by-side serially connected relation or as individual segments, in both instances each segment having the capability of independently displaying that predetermined number of discs.

Turning to the Hunt et al reference (UA 5,101,972), this shows a cylindrical disc carrier having two halves, one of which has a base portion 26 to provide a flat surface upon which the apparatus may rest (Col 3 lines 59-63). The base component 12 is joined to the cover component 14 by way of an interdigitated and rodded edge hinge 40, and a hinge limiter 42 to limit the relative opening movement between the two halves 12, 14, thus preventing the upper half from fully opening into a side-by-side relation with the lower half. Clearly, the Hunt carrier cannot be opened such that its segments are in open, side-by-side serially connected relation, while the interdigitated and rodded hinge arrangement is not capable of ready connection and disconnection.

In the case of Goof (US5,156,289), his "pairs of bulbs 28, 30 " (col 3 lines 39-45) are held together by way of separate pins or plugs (not numbered), which form the hinges. At line 46 of Column 3, Goof also talks of his hinge means being replaced by other permanent or disconnectable hinge means, which however, are not shown or described.

Also, the close-hinged connection of Goof's segments in side-by-side, edge-to-edge relation (see Figure 2) clearly precludes their use in upwards-open relation to showpiece individual disc contents in each segment, as the discs in such an arrangement would inevitably overlap each other.

Claim 1 now recites at least three substantially identical segments in mutually disconnectably hinged array to form an enclosure, wherein peripheral wall portions of the segments collectively comprise a peripheral wall of the container, and adjoining side wall portions of the segments collectively form a pair of container end walls in mutually spaced relation, each said segment including means for separably connecting each said segment in hinged relation to two adjacent said segments to form said container in a closed condition, which distinguishes over both Hunt et al and Goof.

Goof relies upon his unmarked "pins or plugs" to form his hinges, which pins or plugs are not an integral part of his enclosure, and clearly lie outside the language of claim 1. This is not an immaterial difference, as the subject "substantially identical segments" are moulded in the same injection mould, which is a significant economic aspect of their being generated, as part of a demonstration of portable moulding, and as a fully functional product, when mutually adjoined.

Goof's other hinge arrangement, 14 (Column 2 line 51), is so indefinite in its disclosure as to be meaningless.

The subject container is further defined in Claim 1 by each container segment having a projecting heel portion to individually stabilize the segment in an upright standing position and enabling the container to stand in a display condition having each said

segment connected to an adjoining segment and standing in an upwards-open display condition.

New claims 13 through 18 further express the novel aspects of the subject invention.


This display capability of the subject container is of significant importance, enabling a plurality of three discs from the contents of the container to be individually displayed in respective segments of the open container, which display cannot be achieved by the cited Goof and Hunt et al containers, taken singly, or in combination.

Furthermore, in the case of a subject container having three grooves, which contains three discs when closed; in a laid-open condition the segments of that container are each capable of supporting and displaying three individual discs, such that when used for display purposes, nine individual discs can be supported and displayed by means of a single open case. The inclusive hinge means of the segments enable the discs of one segment to be unobstructed by the discs displayed by an adjoining segment.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references, taken singly or in combination cannot achieve the purposes of the present invention. Furthermore, they are silent in regard to such teaching.

Consideration of the claims with a view to their allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Douglas W. Eggins. Patent Agent.

2